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SOURCE 1953 Ching-chi Nien-pao (The 1953 Economic Yearbook), pp 66-68.

ECONOMY OF NORTHWEST CHINA IN 1952

[Comment: This report summarizes an article entitled, "North-west Economy Steadily Marches On," by Ko Wei published in the pro-Communist 1953 Ching-chi Nien-pao (The 1953 Economic Yearbook) on 5 February 1953. The report gives data on agriculture, industry, forestry, stock raising, water conservation, and trade with minority groups in the Northwest.]

A. General

According to the 1951 survey, petroleum and coal deposits of the Northwest comprise 99.5 percent and 40 percent, respectively, of the country's total deposits. Iron and coal deposits located in Shensi are now being exploited. Gold deposits are found in Sinkiang and Tsinghai. The Northwest is also known for its production of salt, cotton, wool, herbs, lumber, and hydroelectric power.

In 1952 basic construction investments in the Northwest were twice as great as in 1951. Work has begun on 28 industrial construction projects, 46 water conservation projects, and 7 transportation projects. Plans to construct electric power plants, chemical plants, and cement manufacturing plants in T'ien-shui and Lan-chou are also being formulated.

B. Agriculture

Production of foodstuffs in 1952 in Shensi was 13.46 percent greater than in the year prior to World War II, and of cotton, 13.53 percent greater than in the highest production year prior to World War II.

Each of the 148,084 mou of land growing foodstuffs in the Ha-mi District of Sinkiang is expected to yield 320 catties of foodstuffs in 1952. A total of 1.67 million mou of land in T'ien-shan hsien, Sinkiang, was placed under cultivation in 1952; the expected yields from these lands in 1952 are: 60,000 tons of wheat, 40,000 tons of rice, 50,000 tons of miscellaneous food products, 3,000 tons of cotton, and 70,000 tons of vegetables.

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Since the liberation to October 1952, Tsinghai produced 95 million catties of foodstuff and 14 million catties of edible oil. A total of 630,000 mou of land has been placed under cultivation in Tsinghai since the liberation.

C. Industries

The Northwest surpassed, by 16.3 percent, its industrial production goal set for 1952 under the "practice economy, increase production" movement. Tsinghai industrial production for 1952 reached 6 billion yuan and exceeded 1950 by 223 percent and 1951, by 83 percent.

During the past 3 years, a total of 15,603 factories, schools, hospitals, and camps were constructed in Sinkiang.

D. Forestry, Stock Raising and Water Conservation

Between Yu-lin, Shensi, and Chiu-ch'uan, Kansu, 129,000 mou of trees were planted to protect the farms from sandstorms. The 1953 plan of the Northwest calls for the reforestation of 950,000 mou and for the care of 3.6 million mou of forests.

Livestock production for 1951 in the Northwest was 13.3 percent greater than for 1950 and 1.83 percent greater than for 1939. Wool production for 1951 in the Northwest was 7 percent greater than for 1950. Tsinghai wool production for the spring of 1952 was 36 percent greater than for the same period in 1951.

From the liberation up to 1951, more than 40 million mou of farm land had been irrigated in the Northwest. In 1952 alone, 7.4 million mou of farm land were irrigated.

E. Trade With Minority Groups

From January 1950 to May 1952, the Northwest State-Operated Trading Company alone purchased 34.7 million catties of local products, valued at 160 billion yuan, and 40 million catties of wool from the minority groups. From the liberation to August 1952, state-operated trading companies in the Northwest purchased a total of 67 million catties of wool and 5.48 million pieces of fur from the minority groups living in the grazing areas. The minority groups in Sinkiang exported 134 percent more furs and local products and imported 72.05 percent more industrial products in 1952 than in 1950.

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